

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

IN RE: Stryker Rejuvenate and ABG II  
Hip Implant Products Liability Litigation

MDL No. 13-2441 (DWF/FLN)

This Document Relates to:

DOUGLAS SWAHL, JENNIFER SWAHL

Plaintiff(s),

vs.

HOWMEDICA OSTEONICS d/b/a  
STRYKER ORTHOPAEDICS, STRYKER  
CORP., STRYKER SALES  
CORPORATION and STRYKER  
IRELAND LIMITED,

Defendants.

**SHORT FORM COMPLAINT AND  
JURY TRIAL DEMAND**

1. Plaintiffs, Douglas Swahl and Jennifer Swahl, state and bring this civil action in MDL No. 2441, entitled *In Re: Stryker Rejuvenate and ABG II Hip Implant Products Liability Litigation*. Plaintiffs are filing this Short Form Complaint as permitted by Pretrial Order #10 dated January 23, 2014 of this Court.

**PARTIES, JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

2. Plaintiff, Douglas Swahl, is a resident and citizen of the State of Pennsylvania and claims damages as set forth below.

3. Plaintiff's Spouse, Jennifer Swahl, is a resident and

citizen of the State of Pennsylvania and claims damages as set forth below.

4. Venue of this case is appropriate in the United States District Court, Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Plaintiff states that but for the Order permitting directly filing into the District of Minnesota pursuant to Pretrial Order No. 4, Plaintiff would have filed in the United States District Court, Eastern District of Pennsylvania. Therefore, Plaintiff respectfully requests that at the time of transfer of this action back to the trial court for further proceedings that this case be transferred to the above referenced District Court.

5. Plaintiff brings this action :

  X   On behalf of himself

       ~~In a representative capacity as the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ having been duly appointed as the \_\_\_\_\_ by the \_\_\_\_\_ Court of \_\_\_\_\_. A copy of the Letters of Administration for a wrongful death claim is annexed hereto if such letters are required for the commencement of such a claim by the Probate, Surrogate or other appropriate court of the jurisdiction of the decedent.~~

### **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

Allegations as to **Right-Side** Implant/Explant Surgery(ies): *[Cross out if not applicable]*

6. Plaintiff was implanted with a Rejuvenate / ~~ABG-II~~ Modular hip stem on his right hip on or about March 28, 2011, at The Chester County Hospital 701 East Marshall Street, in West Chester. PA 19380, by Dr. Cheston Simmons, M.D.

7. Plaintiff had the right hip stem at issue explanted on June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021, at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center 51 N. 39<sup>th</sup> Street, Myrin Basement in Philadelphia. PA by Dr. Gwo-Chin Lee, MD.

8. ~~Plaintiff will have the right hip stem at issue explanted on or about \_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ (medical center and address) by Dr. \_\_\_\_\_.~~

9. ~~Plaintiff has not yet scheduled a surgery for explantation of the right hip stem at issue.~~

Allegations as to **Left-Side** Implant/Explant Surgery(ies): *[Cross out if not applicable]*

10. ~~Plaintiff was implanted with a Rejuvenate / ABG-II (cross out the one that is inapplicable) Modular hip stem on his/her left hip on or about \_\_\_\_\_ (date), at the \_\_\_\_\_ (medical center and address), in \_\_\_\_\_, by Dr. \_\_\_\_\_. *[Cross out if not applicable.]*~~

11. ~~Plaintiff had the left hip stem at issue explanted on \_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ (medical center and address) by Dr. \_\_\_\_\_. *[Cross out if not applicable.]*~~

12. ~~Plaintiff will have the left hip stem at issue explanted on or about \_\_\_\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ (medical center and address) by Dr. \_\_\_\_\_. *[Cross out if not applicable.]*~~

13. ~~Plaintiff has not yet scheduled a surgery for explantation of the left hip implant at issue. *[Cross out if not applicable.]*~~

**ALLEGATIONS AS TO INJURIES**

14. (a) Plaintiff claims damages as a result of (check all that are applicable):

<u>  X  </u>	INJURY TO HIMSELF
<u>  X  </u>	INJURY TO THE PERSON REPRESENTED
<u>      </u>	WRONGFUL DEATH
<u>      </u>	SURVIVORSHIP ACTION
<u>  X  </u>	ECONOMIC LOSS

(b) Plaintiff's spouse claims damages as a result of (check all that are applicable): *[Cross out if not applicable.]*

<u>  X  </u>	LOSS OF SERVICES
<u>  X  </u>	LOSS OF CONSORTIUM

15. Plaintiff has suffered injuries as a result of implantation of the Device(s) at issue manufactured by the Defendants as shall be fully set forth in Plaintiff's anticipated Amended Complaint, as well as in Plaintiff's Fact Sheet and other responsive documents provided to the Defendant and are incorporated by reference herein.

16. Plaintiff has suffered injuries as a result of the explantation of the Device(s) at issue manufactured by the Defendants as shall be fully set forth in Plaintiff's anticipated Amended Complaint, as well as in Plaintiff's Fact Sheet and other responsive documents provided to the Defendant and are incorporated by reference herein. *[Cross out if not applicable.]*

17. Defendants, by their actions or inactions, proximately caused the injuries to Plaintiff(s).

18. Plaintiff(s) could not have known that the injuries he/she suffered were as a result of a defect in the Device(s) at issue until after the date the Device was recalled from the market and the Plaintiff(s) came to learn of the recall.

19. In addition, Plaintiff could not have known that he/she was injured by excessive levels of chromium and cobalt until after the date he/she had his/her blood drawn and he/she was advised of the results of said blood-work and the fact that those blood work abnormalities were attributable to a defect in the Device(s) at issue.

### **CASE-SPECIFIC ALLEGATIONS AND THEORIES OF RECOVERY**

20. The following claims and allegations are asserted by Plaintiff(s) and are herein adopted by reference (check all that are applicable):

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| <u>  X  </u> | COUNT I - NEGLIGENCE;   |
| <u>  X  </u> | COUNT II - NEGLIGENCE PER SE;   |
| <u>  X  </u> | COUNT III - STRICT PRODUCTS LIABILITY - DEFECTIVE DESIGN;                               |
| <u>  X  </u> | COUNT IV - STRICT PRODUCTS LIABILITY – MANUFACTURING DEFECT;                            |
| <u>  X  </u> | COUNT V - STRICT PRODUCTS LIABILITY- FAILURE TO WARN;                                   |
| <u>  X  </u> | COUNT VI - BREACH OF EXPRESS WARRANTY;  |
| <u>  X  </u> | COUNT VII- BREACH OF WARRANTY AS TO MERCHANTABILITY;                                    |
| <u>  X  </u> | COUNT VIII - BREACH OF IMPLIED WARRANTIES;  |
| <u>  X  </u> | COUNT IX - VIOLATION OF MINNESOTA DECEPTIVE ACTS AND PRACTICES, UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES, |

X   CONSUMER PROTECTION MERCHANDISING  
PRACTICES AND FALSE ADVERTISING ACTS

  X   COUNT X – VIOLATION OF CONSUMER FRAUD  
AND/OR UNFAIR AND DECEPTIVE TRADE PRACTICES  
UNDER STATE LAW;

  X   COUNT XI - NEGLIGENT MISREPRESENTATION

  X   COUNT XII - LOSS OF CONSORTIUM

  X   COUNT XIII – UNJUST ENRICHMENT

~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ ~~COUNT XIV – WRONGFUL DEATH~~

In addition to the above, Plaintiff(s) assert the following additional causes of action  
under applicable state law:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff(s) pray for judgment against Defendants as follows:

1. For compensatory damages requested and according to proof;
2. For all applicable statutory damages of the state whose laws will govern this  
action;
3. For an award of attorneys’ fees and costs;
4. For prejudgment interest and costs of suit;
5. For restitution and disgorgement of profits; and,

6. For such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

**JURY DEMAND**

Plaintiff(s) hereby demand(s) a trial by jury as to all claims in this action.

Date: December 8, 2021

Respectfully submitted,

SULLO & SULLO, LLP

/s/ Andrew Sullo

BY: Andrew Sullo

Texas State Bar No., 24026218

2020 Southwest Fwy., Suite 300

Houston, Texas 77098

(713) 839-9026

(713) 523-6634 (Facsimile)

Email: ASullo@sullolaw.com

LEAD COUNSEL FOR PLAINTIFF